AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 11 ~~or 2~~, wherein the surface adapted for connection to the endplate of the adjacent vertebral body is ~~teeth of the central extents of the upper surface and the lower surface of the prosthesis surface are~~ formed with elevations and depressions ~~in the portions configured to engage the central areas of the corresponding end plates of the adjacent vertebral bodies but not in the portions configured to engage the lateral edge zones of the corresponding end plates~~.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 11 ~~or 2~~, wherein an angle of inclination of the lateral ~~extent~~ edge zones of the lower surface of the lower cover plate that is configured to engage the uncovertebral joint region of the corresponding end plate of the adjacent vertebral body relative to a transverse plane is at least 20°.

6. (Currently Amended) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 11 ~~or 2~~, wherein an angle of inclination of the lateral edge zones ~~a portion~~ of the upper surface of the ~~prosthesis~~ upper cover plate that is configured to engage ~~lateral edge zones~~ the uncovertebral joint region of the corresponding end plate of the adjacent vertebral ~~bodies~~ body relative to the transverse plane is 0 to 30°.

7-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral joint prosthesis as claimed in claim 11 ~~or 2~~, wherein the lateral ~~extent~~ edge zones of the lower surface is located in a dorsolateral area of the prosthesis relative to an orientation of the prosthesis in an implanted position.

10. (Currently Amended) An instrument set configured for inserting the prosthesis as claimed in claim 11 ~~or 2~~, comprising a plurality of rasps adapted to the configuration of the prosthesis and configured to prepare surfaces of the corresponding end plates of adjacent vertebral bodies to accommodate the prosthesis shape,

the rasps being designed such that the rasps remove material from a central area and lateral edge zones of the corresponding end plate surfaces except for a dorsal part of the lateral edge zones.

11. (Currently Amended) An intervertebral joint prosthesis configured for implantation into an intervertebral space between adjacent cervical vertebral bodies, which intervertebral space is delimited by end plates of the adjacent vertebral bodies, comprising:

~~wherein the prosthesis comprises~~ a hinge core having an upper surface and a lower surface; ~~which forms an articular joint,~~

an upper cover plate with an upper surface and a lower surface, the upper surface configured to bear against a lower endplate of an adjacent vertebral body upon implantation, the lower surface configured to bear against the upper surface of the hinge core upon implantation; and

a lower cover plate with an upper surface and a lower surface, the upper surface configured to bear against the lower surface of the hinge core upon implantation, ~~and~~ the lower surface ~~being~~ configured to bear against an upper endplate of an adjacent vertebral body upon implantation; ~~on corresponding end plates of the adjacent vertebral bodies,~~ and

~~wherein the lower and upper surfaces~~ the upper surface of the upper cover plate and the lower surface of the lower cover plate each ~~have~~ having a ~~toothed~~ central area ~~extent~~ and ~~an untoothed~~ lateral ~~extent~~ edge zones, wherein the central area is substantially planar and has an anterior edge zone, a posterior edge zone and lateral edges extending between the anterior edge zone and posterior edge zone, all relative to an orientation of the prosthesis in an implanted position and defining an approximate trapezoidal shape, wherein the approximate trapezoidal shape has a surface adapted for connection to the end plate of the adjacent vertebral body upon implantation, and wherein the lateral edge zones have an inclination that is adapted to engage a completely or partially preserved uncovertebral joint region ~~located on an edge of the central extent in a coronal plane, the lateral extent extending from the edge of the central extent to lateral sides of the lower and upper cover plates, the central extent protruding beyond the lateral extent and the lateral extent having an incline relative to a transverse plane, the coronal plane and the transverse plane being taken relative to an orientation of the prosthesis in an implanted position~~.

12. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 6, wherein the angle of inclination is 10 to 30°.

13. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 11, wherein the prosthesis has a width that is more than 1.63 times as great as its depth.

14. (New) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 11, wherein a height, measured in the caudocranial direction relative to the implanted position, of the lateral edge zones is approximately equal to a height of the physiologic intervertebral space at the location of the lateral edge zones, and wherein a height of the central area is greater than the height of the lateral edge zones.

15. (New) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 5, wherein the angle of inclination is approximately 30°.

16. (New) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 9 wherein the dorsolateral area of the prosthesis is beveled.